

**From:** Leah Grodstein <leahg180@gmail.com>

**To:** damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us

**Date:** 04/16/2021 11:31 AM

**Subject:** Mass Ave at Appleton Comment

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Good morning Daniel,

I am sorry I didn't think of this during the meeting last night, but if by chance you have not met with Green International yet to give them direction, I have an additional comment that could be helpful.

It seemed in yesterday's meeting that it was hard to determine whether any of the proposed altered geometry for the left turn from Mass Ave onto Appleton Street would slow down vehicles enough for members of the Design Review Committee to be comfortable allowing those left turns. Given that uncertainty, would it be possible to ask Green International to model the left turns in their new designs in Autoturn at different vehicle speeds? This way, we will have quantitative information on exactly how fast a passenger vehicle could make the left turn from Mass Ave onto Appleton Street. If the Design Review Committee desires, they could even direct Green to only submit designs with geometry that limits turning vehicles to a certain speed.

Sorry to submit this comment late, and thank you for all the work you are doing to make this intersection safer.

Best,  
Leah Grodstein

**From:** <tt8343@aol.com>  
**To:** DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us  
**Date:** 04/21/2021 09:18 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Mass. Ave./Appleton St./Appleton Place

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HiDaniel--Thanks for responding. Sure, you can share anything I send. Tom Tierney

In a message dated 4/21/2021 9:15:39 AM Eastern Standard Time,  
DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us writes:

Hi Tom,

I've added you to my interested persons list for the committee, which I am primarily using to notify non-committee-members about when meetings are to be held, plus any more direct public engagement that may come later. Would you like me to share your additional comment with committee members?

Thank you for this information, it is helpful local knowledge of the situation.

Best,

Daniel Amstutz, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Department of Planning & Community Development  
Town of Arlington  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
(781) 316-3093  
[damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us)

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From: <tt8343@aol.com>  
To: DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us  
Cc: [Lynetteingram@gmail.com](mailto:Lynetteingram@gmail.com) , [spr@mit.edu](mailto:spr@mit.edu)  
Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 00:43:54 +0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Re: Mass. Ave./Appleton St./Appleton Place

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Daniel--Sorry I had to break off from the meeting, but my computer seems to have a mind of its own and terminated my connection shortly after 8pm.

I was a bit disappointed to see that nobody on the committee seemed to voice any care or concern for the residents of Appleton Place, and Burton Street, who will have to live with any changes to the intersection. The discussion seemed to be centered on those vehicles westbound on Mass. Ave. who wanted to make a left turn on to Appleton Street. Those of who live on Appleton Place/Burton Street and desire to make a left turn onto Mass. Ave. apparently will not be considered in any plans to change the traffic flow.

Both visuals you put on the screen show Appleton Place being made one way from Mass. Ave. to Quincy Street. This would be a disaster for the local residents trying to head westbound on Mass. Ave. but would be a nice high speed short-cut from Mass. Ave. to Quincy Street at the expense of the neighborhood.

I understand your concern with the cost of permanent traffic lights at that intersection. But it is the best and simplest solution. It would slow and meter traffic on Mass. Ave., wouldn't take parking spaces for local businesses, and safer for left

turns onto Appleton Street for westbound Mass. Ave. traffic, allow the local residents to make a left turn from Appleton Place onto Mass. Ave., and possibly even get the traffic coming down Appleton Street to occasionally stop at the signal. I make this westbound turn onto Mass. Ave. every day, sometimes many times. On occasion it has been so difficult to pull out and head west on Mass. Ave. that I changed to a right turn, went eastbound to Quincy Street, up Quincy St. to Gray Street, right on Gray St. to Oakland Ave., down Oakland to Appleton St., and left on Appleton Street in order to go to D'Agostino's Deli in the Heights. I know, I could have walked that short distance, but it was cold.

I would appreciate it if you would keep me notified of future meetings and discussions. Thanks. Tom Tierney, 15 Burton St.

In a message dated 4/15/2021 11:30:12 AM Eastern Standard Time, DAMstutz@town.arlington.ma.us writes:

Hi Tom,

Thanks for your comments. I'll share them with the committee.

On the issue of the traffic signal, that is actually one of the most expensive proposals we are considering. It would be more of a long-term improvement here. The existing signal equipment is severely out of date and will need to be replaced; it is also highly likely that the equipment no longer meets state and national standards. The traffic signal will also need to be designed with a proper signal phasing plan, which will require us to hire a traffic engineering consultant. For reference, the traffic signals recently installed at the Lake Street/Bikeway crossing, and included replacing the signals at Lake Street and Brooks Ave, were priced at around \$250,000 for each assembly. The total project construction cost for the Lake Street/Bikeway crossing was around \$750,000 which means the signals made up the lion's share of that cost.

Best,

Daniel Amstutz, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner  
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Town of Arlington  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
(781) 316-3093  
[damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us)

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From: <tt8343@aol.com>  
To: damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us  
Cc: [tt8343@aol.com](mailto:tt8343@aol.com)  
Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2021 14:26:21 +0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Mass. Ave./Appleton St./Appleton Place

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Dan--I don't think I will be able to Zoom into the meeting tonight, but since I live on Burton Street here are some of my observations. First of all, it is virtually impossible to make a left turn out of Burton Street to head west on Mass. Ave. Visibility is not good due to the condo at 1180 Mass. Ave., bushes, etc. and eastbound traffic on Mass. Ave. approaches that intersection at a pretty high rate of speed. Plus there is an almost steady stream of traffic coming out of Forest Street heading east on Mass. Ave. This makes it almost mandatory to go west on Mass. Ave. by going up Burton Street to Appleton Place and entering Mass. Ave. at the intersection of Appleton Street, Appleton Place, and Mass. Ave. The problem there is that nobody coming down Appleton Street onto Mass. Ave., NOBODY, stops at the flashing red light located at that intersection. Plus the traffic going both east and west on Mass. Ave. is generally an unbroken line. It is a life-threatening experience to enter Mass. Ave. in a west-bound direction during the rush hour. Also, there is a bank directly across Mass. Ave. from Appleton Place and customers exit their parking lot going east on Mass. Ave. making the problem even worse.

Personally I think that the pedestrian light at Appleton St./Appleton Pl./ Mass. Ave. should be a permanent light with green arrows allowing Appleton Place traffic to safely enter Mass. Ave. in both directions. Seems to me that would be an inexpensive fix compared to all the other suggestions.

Tom Tierney, 15 Burton St.



**From:** Petru Sofio <petrusofio@gmail.com>  
**To:** Daniel Amstutz <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 04/18/2021 09:38 AM  
**Subject:** Mass/Appleton comments

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Hi Daniel,

I wanted to share some of my thoughts I had since the meeting (mostly about the decision points you laid out).

Appleton Place - I think Appleton place should be a one way away from Mass ave. This will make the pedestrian crossings much safer at Appleton place, and allow a left turn ban from Mass Ave.

Turn Restrictions - I think the left-turn movement of Appleton Street onto Mass Ave WB, and Mass ave WB onto Appleton street (and Appleton place) should be permanently banned. But this should be tested first. We should look into setting up the cones banning the left turn and keeping them up for 1-3 weeks, just to see what negative impacts come from this. If there are extra left turns at Park ave/Mass ave, we could add a leading left turn.

An alternative could be using flex posts to force drivers to take a 90 ish degree angled turn. This would slow down left turns, and would make the transition to signalization way easier.

Bike Accommodation - I think bike lanes are a must in the design, and we should use green pavement markings at conflict zones. We should also put a bike box in both directions to prevent right-hooks when the light is red.

Signalization - We need to keep the traffic signal at Appleton St/Pl and Mass Ave. This crosswalk is very busy, and it would be unsafe to not have a red light here. But we should improve it in some way. We should do this by:

- Adding reflective backplates to all approaches
- Adding at least one traffic signal towards the leader bank parking lot.

I also think we need to make sure our solution is ADA accessible. Currently, the APS speaker at the crosswalk is broken, we should replace it or install Polara Navigator buttons. We should **not** use a RRFB. That would be unsafe.

I also recently checked out a [temporary signal installed](#) in Winchester, I think I sent info about it in the chat to you ([Youtube video of it](#)). That's another really good solution if we can find the money of course.

Lastly, I decided to make a short-term design. I made sure to keep 11' travel lanes, 5' bike lanes, 8' parking. I also made sure to only use temporary quick build materials (paint, flexible delineators). This plan includes one-sided parking, protected bike lanes on both sides of mass ave, and a large bulb out. I attached the design below.

Thank you,  
Petru Sofio  
He/Him

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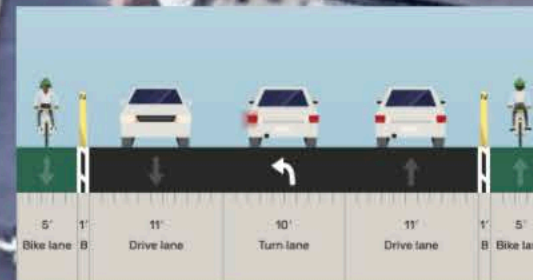
[The attachment Screen Shot 2021-04-18 at 09.26.09.png was manually removed: Wed, 21-Apr-2021 13:22:50 GMT]



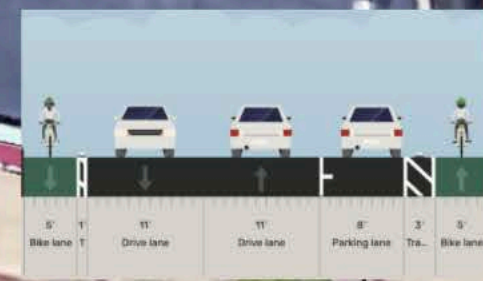


Consider moving bus stop away from intersection.

Delineator 



Restrict parking ~ 5 spots



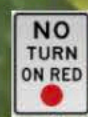
Posts to force drivers to take left turns onto Appleton St at a right angle, slowing them down

Signals to remain in place. Reflective backplates to be added on all approaches, and signal placement to be altered (Due to Appleton's one way)

Bulb out with truffle paint and flex posts, plants should be installed for beautification

Restrict parking residential side

Appleton place changed into a one way away from Mass Ave





To: Dan Amstutz and Appleton/Mass Ave Design Review Committee

From: Ann LeRoyer, 12 Peirce Street, [annleroyer12@gmail.com](mailto:annleroyer12@gmail.com)

April 20, 2021

Thank you all for your work to date on this challenging intersection. I am offering some observations and suggestions following the April 15 meeting which I attended on Zoom.

I live on Peirce St. near the corner of Forest St. and have had to deal with this dangerous, confusing, complex road network for more than 26 years, mostly by foot or car.

I realize the top priority is the Appleton/Mass Ave intersection, but I want to address the entire corridor, especially in light of several new developments that will contribute to the traffic and safety concerns. Generally, I prefer the Green International Alternative 1, but appreciate other options that could be incorporated as appropriate.

### **Forest/Burton/Mass Ave**

This very busy intersection makes it especially difficult to turn left onto Mass Ave. from either side.

Sight lines are often blocked by cars parked too close to the intersections, and the curve in Mass Ave also creates some confusion. The blinking yellow light in front of the laundromat does not seem to have much impact on slowing traffic.

Cars, buses, and trucks all drive too fast and seem unaware/contemptuous of cars trying to enter Mass Ave. They rarely yield to allow merging into traffic, causing long waits at certain times, especially on Forest street.

The forthcoming housing development on the Mirak property off Mass/Forest/Ryder Street will add even more traffic to this intersection, including at the driveway entrance just east of the intersection. It will also increase the amount of pedestrian and bicycle usage of these streets.

Would it be possible to add bollards or raised, curbed islands and marked turning lanes, similar to the Summer St/Grove St/Oak Hill Drive intersection? The islands and signage help slow traffic and direct it appropriately. The portable pedestrian signs are not very effective and are often moved out of the crosswalk.

A short-term improvement would be to install baskets with orange flags on each side of the Mass Ave. crosswalk, as at many other sites in town.

### **Appleton St/Appleton Place/Mass Ave/Leader Bank**

I strongly agree with a dedicated left turn lane extending into the intersection so cars must slow and make a real left turn onto Appleton Street or Appleton Place, rather than speeding through at an angle as they do now. A bike lane or sharrows should be very clearly marked/painted along both sides of Mass Ave. through the entire corridor and especially here.

Appleton Place should be one way heading away (south) from Mass Ave, though I sympathize with the lack of good options for getting back to Mass Ave from there...



I support eliminating some parking on the south side of Mass Ave close to the intersection, and also moving the bus stop on the north side further west to create more space for three traffic lanes plus at least one bike lane. Parking is most important for the north side businesses.

Move the crosswalk to the western side of the intersection in front of Leader Bank.

Add baskets with orange flags for students and others to use when trying to cross Mass Ave.

Add a stop sign at the exit ramp of the Leader Bank parking lot.

### **Clark St/Lowell St/Mass Ave**

Short- and long-term planning should take into account the expected hotel and restaurant at 1207-1211 Mass Ave at the intersection of Clark St., a narrow private way and the only access into the hotel's rear parking area. This new development will add significant traffic, including tour buses, commercial delivery trucks and Uber-type passenger services.

The new liquor store at the corner of Mass Ave/Clark St. has already added traffic and parking activity at this part of the corridor.

The large, open intersection at Lowell Street encourages speeding and makes turning east from Lowell onto Mass Ave problematic.

I hope you can consider extending the Foot of the Rocks park into the paved area or adding islands with signage to slow and direct traffic (as on Summer Street). Adding a crosswalk somewhere along here near Dunkin Donuts would also be very helpful.

### **General Recommendations**

More traffic signage – 25 or 30 miles per hour (whatever is legal/appropriate), and more enforcement of speeding and red-light violations.

Restricted parking lines painted on the street and/or signage (no parking here to corner) to improve sight lines at all intersections.

Thanks again for your consideration and dedication to improving this neighborhood for all users. I look forward to continued refinement of both short-term and long-term solutions.

**From:** "Kelly Lynema" <KLynema@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**To:** "Daniel Amstutz" <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Cc:** "Alex Tee" <alex.k.tee@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 05/19/2021 12:24 PM  
**Subject:** Resident Suggestions for Mass Ave / Appleton Design Review Committee

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Hi Dan,

Alex Tee, cc'd here, is a resident in the Ryder Street neighborhood who I've met through my work with the ZBA on the Comprehensive Permit for 1165R Mass Ave. He followed up with me this morning with the suggestions below for the Mass Ave/Appleton Design Review Committee:

- Three consecutive highway off-ramp style intersections at Forest, Appleton and Westminster makes it way too easy to carry excessive speed onto residential streets. We've seen some thoughtful traffic smoothing applications in Somerville to deal with such issues.
- We'd also like to propose consideration of a formal cross-walk at Forest and Ryder to reduce the risk of individuals crossing at Forest/Mass Ave. This of course is an intricate 5-way intersection the land on which the town partially owns but we have not been able to get a meeting with the town manager to discuss.
- Pedestrian and bicycle traffic coming off of bike path onto Ryder also possess some safety risks that also get to be addressed with the town.

I've shared information about the Committee's meeting next week, but also wanted to put the two of you in touch in case you had any follow up questions.

Thank you,

Kelly

Kelly Lynema  
Senior Planner  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
Town of Arlington  
direct: 781-316-3096  
[klynema@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:klynema@town.arlington.ma.us)

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**From:** "Adam Chapdelaine" <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**To:** "Daniel Amstutz" <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>, "Michael Rademacher" <MRademacher@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Cc:** "Jenny Raitt" <JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 05/20/2021 09:09 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

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FYI

Adam W. Chapdelaine  
Town Manager  
Town of Arlington  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
(781) 316-3010

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From: dianemahon@verizon.net  
To: "achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us" <achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>  
Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 10:08:47 +0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Fwd: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

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Also, please forward this.....thx!!

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Diane  
<https://www.facebook.com/diane.s.mahon>

-----Original Message-----  
From: Mark Weisz <[markbot7@gmail.com](mailto:markbot7@gmail.com)>  
To: Diane Mahon <[dianemahon@verizon.net](mailto:dianemahon@verizon.net)>  
Cc: [arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org) <[arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org)>  
Sent: Wed, May 19, 2021 6:46 pm  
Subject: Re: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

Dear Diane Mahon, Town of Arlington,

Thank you for this. I'm really glad that something is being done to mitigate the dangers of that intersection, especially for cyclists.

There is a bicycle, painted white, chained to a tree nearby on the odd-numbered side of Mass. Ave. (A series of storefronts called "Locke Place".)

There is a sign on the handlebars which reads:

Charles Proctor  
05/24/1992 - 05/05/2020

I assume Mr. Proctor died in that intersection a little more than a year ago. It's so sad, a terrible loss. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones.

I hope the traffic studies can lead to permanent improvements and prevent more tragic deaths.

Best,

--Mark Weisz

On Wed, May 19, 2021 at 1:20 PM Diane M. Mahon via arlington <[arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org)> wrote:

Temporary Lane Reconfiguration at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street



**From:** "Adam Chapdelaine" <AChapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**To:** "Michael Rademacher" <MRademacher@town.arlington.ma.us>, "Daniel Amstutz" <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 05/19/2021 11:05 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

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FYI

Adam W. Chapdelaine  
Town Manager  
Town of Arlington  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
(781) 316-3010

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From: dianemahon@verizon.net  
To: "achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us" <achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>  
Date: Wed, 19 May 2021 15:04:15 +0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Fwd: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

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Adam,

Could you forward this email with Planning or APD or whoever is overseeing this? Thx!!

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Diane  
<https://www.facebook.com/diane.s.mahon>

-----Original Message-----  
From: [megdc@aol.com](mailto:megdc@aol.com)  
To: [dianemahon@verizon.net](mailto:dianemahon@verizon.net) <[dianemahon@verizon.net](mailto:dianemahon@verizon.net)>  
Sent: Wed, May 19, 2021 10:34 am  
Subject: Re: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

Hi Diane,

Thank you for the information about the traffic changes. Hopefully, they will also look at when there is no left turn onto Appleton in the evenings, the traffic increases on Richardson Ave (the street next to Dunkin's) and sometimes there is congestion on the street. If they are thinking about a more permanent change, then they might want to restrict parking on Richardson to only one side of the street. If two cars are parked across from each other, it makes it very narrow for vehicles to go up or down the street.

Maureen Gormley (on the corner of Mass Ave and Richardson)

-----Original Message-----  
From: Diane M. Mahon via arlington <[arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org)>  
To: [arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org) <[arlington@arlingtonlist.org](mailto:arlington@arlingtonlist.org)>  
Sent: Wed, May 19, 2021 9:20 am  
Subject: [arlington] Appleton Street Intersection info.

## Temporary Lane Reconfiguration at the Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street

The Department of Public Works will temporarily reconfigure the travel lanes on Appleton Street at the intersection with Massachusetts Avenue from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19th, and Thursday, May 20th, to allow for an assessment of potential intersection improvement alternatives at this location. This work will be in conjunction with the ongoing "No Left Turn" setup implemented by the Arlington Police Department for westbound traffic on Massachusetts Avenue trying to access Appleton Street. Travel lane adjustments will be implemented using traffic cones. Drivers, cyclists, and other travelers should follow the lanes demarcated by the traffic cones during the reconfiguration period, as well as any directions of Traffic Safety Police Details.

Staff from the Town and from the Town's consultant will be on-site to perform visual observations and to monitor traffic and turning movements. Data compiled during the temporary lane reconfiguration will be used to assist in the layout and design of future improvements at this intersection.

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Diane

<https://www.facebook.com/diane.s.mahon>

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